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Local Unionists Hit Ceiling on Wages

by Steve Ney
Modern Times Staff

Now that we're in Phase II of the Nixon "New Economic Policy," **Modern Times** reporters interviewed representatives of organized labor in the New Haven area to find out their reactions to the controls on wages, prices and profits. We asked them how the plan affected working people, whether the controls on prices could work, and what the strategy for working people should be.

Most of the union leaders we spoke with vigorously opposed Nixon's plan although a few felt that it might work. Here are quotations from some of those opposed to it:

MIKE RAO, President, International Association of Machinists, Lodge 609, Representing workers at Olin: "The Pay Board is a one-sided affair--the five labor people were put on for show reasons only. I'm opposed to any type of wage freeze that restricts how much we can get. We have people working at the minimum wage or just above who're restricted to a 5.5% increase. In my opinion that's ridiculous. What do these people do when the cost of living goes up?

In order to enforce the price controls you need a large staff and they won't have the staff. Nixon's not prepared to put it into effect, he just wants to fulfill his promises to industry. Does anyone really believe that the businesses are going to be honest? It'll take years just to get them into court.

Nixon has hurt the labor movement. He's got to go."

EVANNE BERNADO, President, Connecticut Union of Welfare Employees, Local 629: "The wage freeze is designed mainly to help Nixon and his rich friends."

JUSTIN MANNING International Representative, Office and Professional Employees International Union: "A 5.5% limit on wages is completely unrealistic, especially for office workers in the $2.00-$3.00 range. It doesn't even meet the rising cost of living which was 7% in the last 12 months. Any pay raises should be made retroactive. To do otherwise would abrogate the contracts.

The alleged 'freeze' on prices is totally ineffective. You can see that by walking into any supermarket. It's just a lot of crap. The prices of commodities are invisible-only wages are visible.

"If the labor movement stands still on the 5.5% limit it's crazy. Most of the 16 million organized workers are making just enough to stay alive, for example the hotel,, municipal, and custodial office workers. We can act in concert and throw the rascals out. There's a day of reckoning for people like Nixon, and also for some of those people in Congress."

JOHN WILHELM. Business Agent, Hotel, Restaurant and Employees International Union, Local 217: "The Nixon plan is a fraud. Even if price controls were actually enforced, in terms of the income people earn, especially where they're earning less than $3.00 an hour, 5% just isn't enough. And the 5.5% includes fringe benefits. For example, someone earning $2.00 an hour can get an increase of only 11 cents per hour in a year.

It seems impossible for the average person to tell if the price controls are being enforced. We have to depend on the merchant's willingness or ability to control his own prices. It's totally, grossly unfair. I hope the unions won't allow this to continue."

HARRY KAPLAN, Business Agent, *United Electrical Workers for the Southern Connecticut Region*: *"The wage freeze is entirely unjustified and an attack on the conditions of working people. Five and a half percent is completely inadequate for a wage standard, and the price controls are a joke. The only thing that will be controlled are wages and the conditions of working people. The rest of it is ineffective and an unsatisfactory solution. To end inflation, workers*

See LABOR, page 11

YNFAC Workers: The Fight Goes On

Ballot counting at Yale after clerical and technical employees voted on whether to unionize. See story on page 2. (M-T photo by Alan Kay)

Welfare Myths Blasted At Hearing On Cuts

by Steve Ellner
Modern Times Staff

Governor Meskill's welfare cuts ran into stiff opposition from speaker after speaker - 35 in all - at the November 17 New Haven public hearing of the State Legislative committee on welfare. The speakers represented a host of concerned organizations from the Connecticut State Labor Council, AFL-CIO to the League of Women Voters. They presented a large variety of reasons why the cuts were senseless and unfair, and were well received by the 150 people attending the hearing.

Many of the people chided the Governor for perpetuating the old myths that welfare recipients were lazy and unwilling to work. The truth of the matter, stated Dr. Morris Wessel of New Haven, is that "many are on welfare because of unemployment and how can you punish them because of that?"

At one point a welfare recipient confronted the legislative panel with the

See WELFARE, page 4

The state legislative committee on welfare has been holding public meetings on welfare in Waterbury, Hartford, Stamford and New Haven. Above is the hearing at the hall of records in New Haven.
Although the climate of previous meetings was heated as a result of recent welfare cuts, this one was relatively calm, due in part to the court decision which placed a moratorium on the cuts. Nevertheless, the speakers were adamant and unanimous in their opposition to the cuts.
On the left is the legislative committee, with John Nichols, Director of Family Service of New Haven seated to the far right. On the right is the Welfare MOMS, with Gail Coleman, Vice President of the MOMS seated second from the right. (M-T photo by Paul Gill)

Velez Tells How Machine Uses Model Cities

by Liz Henderson
Modern Times Staff

Pura Velez, former Compliance Officer for Model Cities, sees the program in danger of becoming a gravy train for Democratic Party regulars. In an interview with **Modern Times** she described how the Democratic machine pressures people who work for Model Cities and how this pressure forced her to quit her job.

A resident of the Hill Neighborhood for five years, Pura Velez has been involved in the Model Cities program since it began as elected representative to the board of the Hill Neighborhood Corporation and as Health Education Assistant and Community Organizer for the Hill Health Center. She is also active in the Junta for Progressive Action.

When she took the job as Compliance Officer for Model Cities, Velez explains, "I wanted to be free to work for everybody and not as a political appointee. That way my hands would be tied. My struggle was to go as a representative of the community."

The Model Cities Compliance Officer is charged with overseeing contracts between the agency and the programs which it funds. A crucial aspect of the job is checking on hiring to be sure that neighborhood people are chosen. The Compliance Officer is also in charge of citizen participation and acts as a go between with the residents' organization, the Hill Neighborhood Corporation.

Velez was critical of the Model Cities Task Forces which were supposed to involve Hill residents. "85% of the population of the Hill," she speculates, "does not know about the programs available to them."

Mrs. Velez also met resistance when she tried to get some of the programs to hire Puerto Ricans. "I've been struggling for nine months," she said, "to get the economic development program, Taking Care of Business, to hire a spanish-speaking person."

When she spoke up about her criticisms at supervisors' meetings, she found that fewer and fewer meetings were held or they were held without her. She claims that she was cut off from the information she needed to do her job. As she puts it, "I was just there – I wasn't getting information. I was able to do practically nothing. Better to come home and save myself from an ulcer."

Labelled 'GOP'

Aside from her criticisms, Mrs. Velez believes the real cause of her problems in working in Model Cities was her refusal to work for Mayor Guida in the election.

"I was labelled as behind the registration of Republicans. I refused: 1-to tell CPI representatives to vote for Stanley Rogers, (he was the Guida man on the CPI Board), and 2- I was asked for a contribution of $50 to the Democratic Party and that would clear me of anything. I did not do this."

Mrs. Velez explains that she did give the question of which party to support a great deal of thought. "In the beginning," she recalls, "When I was trying to make up my mind which way I would go, I went to see Guida. It was the day the teenagers from the Cove were picketing his office. I told him I was sick and tired of the conditions of the Puerto Ricans. In the 37 years the Democratic Party claims to have represented the Puerto Ricans they've done nothing.

"I talked with Guida. I said I sympathized with the kids from the Cove. They are in the same boat as our kids who also have no place to go."

Machine Harrassment

Mrs. Valez's boss, Moore, began to harrass her. "The only way Puerto Ricans were going to be recognized," she felt, "was by registering and the Republicans were doing their homework with the Puerto Rican community. Every time a group of Puerto Ricans registered Republican, Vernon would call me into his office. I knew that for me to register people would violate the Hatch Act since I was working with Federal funds. I never registered anyone--there were enough others working on it. Other staff members did violate the Hatch Act. They were working at the polls handing out literature for Guida.

"I cannot become a puppet. I have watched so many injustices in the name of politics and I cannot commit myself to one of the parties."

Must Support Dems

According to Velez, her decision to remain neutral was unacceptable to Vernon Moore: "Moore said if you work in the Agency there is no neutral stand. You either take one side or the other."

After Velez handed in her resignation, she says Moore offered to help her find another Model Cities job, under the condition that she refrain from attacking Model Cities or the Democrats. Velez refused: "I would like to work for the neighborhood but I can't. I won't accept any job funded by Model Cities."

YNFAC: Union Fights On

by David Adams
Modern Times Staff

The Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee (YNFAC) lost its recognition election November 17. 520 clerical and technical employees voted for the union, but it fell short of the 900 votes which would have been necessary to win.

The official union response by spokeswoman *Lynne Karsten, promised that organizing would continue. "We feel* confident that the movement for a union will grow and that there will be a union at Yale within the next few years. We, the hundreds of members of YNFAC, consider this only round one."

I interviewed a number of Yale workers who had been active in the union, and found that they agree. "In the words of the immortal Brooklyn Dodgers," said Bill Berndtsen, a laboratory technician, "wait 'til next year."

Berndtsen and others pointed out that the position of YNFAC has strengthened year by year. "At this time a year ago there were probably no more than a hundred Yale employees who considered themselves part of YNFAC," he pointed out. "Now there are over 500, most of whom are members of the union. Next time, we will be starting from a bigger base than ever," Berndtsen predicted.

Champagne and Caviar

Some of the immediate reactions centered on Yale's victory celebration. "I don't even mind losing so much as I do mind their winning," said Gail Glasson, a laboratory technician. "All my anger is concentrated on the obscene celebration of Yale at their Faculty Club," said Lillian Weitzler, a secretary.

Weitzler read me the description of Yale's celebration from the **Yale Daily News**: "The University held their celebration in a private room of the faculty club. The atmosphere was convivial and the menu extravagant, including champagne and caviar."

"Now, I'd like to know who picked up the tab," she asked me. "Is the University paying for this? Does it have the money to pay this while it cries poverty to us?"

"They took one arm of the whole body and celebrated with that how they had put down the rest of the Yale body that keeps things in order and does the real work of the University," she concluded.

The official union statement pointed out that 520 supporters is "a very large number, probably as large as most unions in Connecticut. We are proud to have such an impressive showing for this union election, especially since statistics show that most large unions do not win election on their first try."

Ed Vann, a library worker , pointed out that "we have a particularly difficult task since this is a breakthrough operation. White collar people haven't been unionized so much in the past."

The drive for a union of white collar employees at Yale began back in 1965. At first it was largely confined to the Laboratory of Epidemiology and Public Health (EPH) where Bill Berndtsen is a technician. After YNFAC was formed in 1968 it petitioned for a union election at EPH alone, but was turned down by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

The next stage in the YNFAC drive came this spring when they circulated a petition and gained the needed votes to force Yale into a representation election. The number of people involved in the union drive has risen steadily and is now far greater than at any time in the past.

According to federal law and NLRB practice, there must be a one year wait before another election can be held at the University. But many union members seem confident that they will be ready to move again at that time.

"We did a lot of work and met a lot of people and gained a lot of knowledge," Ed Vann told me. "Based on that knowledge we now have the ability to move ahead for another year. Regardless of losing we did get to 500 people and that's a substantial improvement. What we have to do is to turn these 500 people into organizers and not just supporters."

Vann looked around the room where a group of YNFAC supporters were having beer and pizza as they recovered from the election results. "What's so great is that just about all these people here have committed themselves to carry on the fight. After all, the need still remains and it's just a matter of people coming to realize that the union can fulfill that need."

Betty Murray, secretary, said that after the first shock of disappointment, she realized the YNFAC has come a long way. "I think we did remarkably, considering the institution we were up against. We can take a lot of credit for making people aware that Yale hasn't lived up to its responsibilities as an employer. With 520 people, we have a good group to work with."

Rev. Abernathy Speaks for Angela Davis

Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, chairman of Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was greeted by nearly 2000 at a rally for Angela Davis November 18 at the Unitarian church in Westport. He referred to her trial as "an attempt to intimidate all people who will stand up and join the struggle for a just society," and called for an end to the kidnap, murder and conspiracy against black people and third world countries by America. The meeting was sponsored by the Fairfield County Committee for the Legal Defense of Angela Davis.

Rev. Willard Uphaus and several other New Haven ministers initiated a petition of concern for Angela Davis the week before the rally. At left, Rev. Abernathy signs the petition which Rev. Uphaus has presented to him. The petition, addressed to the Supreme Court of California, reproaches the continued jailing without bail of Angela Davis, violating her constitutional rights.

Tenants Organize Center

by Karen Wolff
Modern Times Staff

The Tenants Representative Council (TRC) of New Haven was organized to assure the needs of people living in public housing. Elected representatives from all public housing developments like Rockview, Brookside, Eastern Circle and Newhallville Gardens meet with the Housing Authority here to improve the facilities and services due the tenants. The TRC also views the improvement of communication among tenants and between the Council and the tenants as an important part of their job.

From October 29 to November 2 there was a conference of the National Tenants Organization in San Francisco. The Conference involved local, state, and regional groups from all over the U. S., including Alaska and Hawaii. The Connecticut groups from New Haven and Bridgeport were flown there in a chartered plane paid for by the New Haven Housing Authority.

During the Conference there were statewide and regional meetings to deal with common problems. During the general sessions Julian Bond from Georgia, Shirley Chisholm of New York and Ron Dellums from Berkeley were heard. There were also workshops on issues like day care, abortion, and student organizations.

The TRC has a meeting place at 185 Ashmun Street but it needs money for workers and supplies. For further information call 389-4531, Mrs. Gambrel; 469-2258, Mrs. Williams: or 387-7324, Mrs. Morant.

Bus Crisis: Meskill, Gengras, And Big Business Profits

by Henry Lowendorf
Modern Times Staff

Governor Thomas Meskill could have forestalled the present bus transit crisis by signing two bills into law last July. One bill authorized state takeover of part of the Connecticut Company, the second bill would have added a one cent gasoline tax to be used to subsidize bus transit operations.

Both bills were strongly supported by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) which represents the bus drivers, as one move toward complete publicly-owned bus systems. Meskill vetoed them both.

E. Clayton Gengras, President of the Connecticut Company, is trying to convince the public that the financial problems of mass transit result from greedy union bus drivers. But in fact, Gengras, a multimillionaire,

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and his friends who took over bus operations from the bankrupt New Haven Railroad in 1959, made considerable profits from the company until 1970 (nearly 10 per cent in 1969).

But now business appears less profitable and Gengras, who was a former Republican candidate for governor, is asking another friend, Meskill, for a subsidy, or for the state to buy out the Connecticut Company.

Gengras chose to drop his bombshell of cutting off services at a time when the ATU was negotiating intensively with his company on a new contract. Thus the union has been made scapegoat for the breakdown of mass transit.

The bus situation, like most mass transit in the U.S., has been a progression of fare-rate increases and service cuts since the end of World War II. During the War years the Conn. Co. carried over 140 million passengers per year, with a fare of 8 cents. Now with 30 and 35 cent fares the number of passengers is reduced to 30 million.

And whenever profits faltered service was cut, as witnessed by the recent reduction of weekend and almost complete removal of nighttime service in New Haven.

Increased fares and poor service are a form of regressive taxation. They hit those who can least afford them: primarily working people, the poor, the young, the aged, and the infirm.

Less bus service, of course, means the need for more cars. And thus the mass transit problem runs full circle. For it was originally pressure from the powerful automobile associated industries which led to the reign of private autos and the decline of public transportation.

The inactivity of the Connecticut Co. bus shop and the mid-afternoon sunlight give no hint of New Haven's mass transit dilemma. An idle bus suggests Gengras' answer to the public need for transportation on weekends. (M-T photo by Alan Kay)

Teachers Challenge Wage Freeze

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

The New Haven Teachers union has hired a law firm to take steps against the City for refusing to grant pay increases negotiated last spring.. The action follows two weeks of concentrated effort on the part of the union to pressure the city government to go ahead on the pay raise agreement.

City officials say they cannot grant pay raises because of the wage freeze. The teachers contend that they should be entitled to the increases because the tax mill rate was *upped a year ago in anticipation of the raises.*

According to Ronald O'Brien, president of the New Haven Federation of Teachers, union officials discussed the matter with Gerald Barbaresi, superintendent of schools George Barbarito, assistant superintendent, and City Comptroller Frances Kelly, "to no avail."

City Snubs Teachers

O'Brien then began "bombarding the city administration on the air and in the papers to seek the necessary clarification from the federal government as to where the teachers stand vis a vis the wage freeze."

When this met with no action, the union's executive board voted to hire the law firm of Satter, Fleischman, and Scherbacow to help. A press statement explains that the action is "a *means of countering the inexcusable and insulting delinquency on the part of the city administration."*

The union is concerned about how all wage earners are being affected by the wage freeze and sent a telegram to the national meatcutters union endorsing their call for a national general strike, "An attack against one is an attack against all," says Ronald O'Brien.

In a special statement to **Modern Times**, The NHFT president gave his views on the freeze:

"Not since the days of the famous black shirts have the working people been under such viciously contrived attack. If the rank and file workers of this country fail to rally so as to compel the Nixon administration to lift the embargo on negotiated and legally constituted wage agreements, then they had better face the fact that collective bargaining as we know it will have come to an end.

"What is especially tragic, though not surprising by any means, is that rank and file labor union members from coast to coast have been sold out by the labor fakers operating in open collusion at the highest echelons of *the AFL-CIO national leadership.*

"At any rate it is high time that rank and file unionists and other committed progressives join together to put an end to the bankrupt policies of the Meany group and insist that either he or the bureaucratic liberals who play ball with him exert positive leadership or get through all together. For all the good they have done, they might as well have been serving the interests of the business community on the national pay board."

Paraprofessionals Organize Their Union Local

by Inez Brooks
Vice President, Local 1303
AFSCME Council 4

On Wednesday, November 10, city para-professionals packed the small cafeteria of Conte School for their first union meeting. They elected officers, selected a negotiating committee, and discussed issues for their impending contract negotiations with the city.

Jeanne Johnson was elected president, Inez Brooks, vice-president and Ralph DePonte, treasurer. Anne Twarowski and Pat Farrar will share the job of secretary.

No specific contract issues were decided, but several were raised. One of the priority issues was salaries. Many para-professionals are in the three thousand dollar pay-bracket. Three thousand dollars is a poverty wage which forces many para-professionals to remain on the welfare rolls.

A second important issue is education. Para-professionals have been urged or forced to go to school. Many have to pay the costs from their already meager salaries. Para-professionals want the Board of Education to pay the costs of the education they urge or require.

Two other important issues are pension plans and seniority. At present the para-professionals have neither a pension plan nor seniority rights. Both are union goals.

An important but elusive issue is the need for administrative accountability. Supervisors' commands are often not followed up with help. For example, administrators urge para-professionals to do special activities but they do not furnish the equipment for those activities. Supervisors often do not appear at appointments to supervise or advise aides.

An additional issue is a revision of job descriptions. The Board of Education's job descriptions for para-professionals do not describe the jobs they do.

The union is requesting that all para-professionals write *real* job descriptions and turn them in to the union.

A constant theme of the November 10th meeting was the need for participation. Local 1303 meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Conte School Cafeteria. All union members are urged to come and participate.

NOTICE: ALL READERS

THE NEXT ISSUE OF MODERN TIMES WILL BE OUT IN THREE WEEKS' DECEMBER 15, 1971; RATHER THAN IN TWO WEEKS, WHICH IS THE USUAL INTERVAL BETWEEN PUBLICATIONS.

LABOR NOTES

CONTRACT FOR MILFORD TEACHERS

After 10 months of negotiations, including arbitration and mediation, the Milford Education Association finally was forced to go on strike November 18. "We had no power," President Jean Tuttle told **Modern Times**. "The only thing we could do was withhold our services." After two days of strike, a new contract was agreed on by the negotiators and ratified by the Association on November 20. It provides a 3.24% pay raise, and a limited cost of living increase for the second year of the contract life.

SETTLEMENT AT GEOMETRIC TOOL

The International Association of Machinists, Lodge 2120 has reached a settlement for a three year contract with Geometric Tool Co. in New Haven, affecting over 200 workers. According to Warren Hoffman, Business Representative for the union, the settlement calls for an overall package increasing wages and fringe benefits 7% in each of the next three years. Wages were boosted from $3.55 to $4.28 an hour over the life of the contract. There also are improvements in vacation, pension, sick pay, health insurance and job classifications.

JOB SITUATION DANGEROUS TO WORKERS

Federal inspectors found that 79% of the more than 5,600 businesses checked during the first five months of the Occupational Safety and Health Act had safety violations, according to George Guenther, assistant labor secretary. The average penalty which businesses had to pay was less than $13 per violation, in other words, lunch money.

WESLEYAN CUSTODIANS FILE FOR UNION

Custodial and trades employees at Wesleyan University have filed a petition with the N.L.R.B. asking for a union election. The 160 Wesleyan employees approached Local 35, Federation of University Employees in New Haven (which represents 1200 employees at Yale) for assistance in their organizational attempt, and hope to hold their election before Christmas.

State Wide Coalition Fights Welfare Myths

by Patti Miller
Modern Times Staff

The recent activities of the Welfare MOMS have brought to everyone's attention the fact that some improvements in the current welfare system must be made. Representatives from several community agencies and 25 groups, and a number of individuals have joined forces and, working together as the New Haven Coalition of Urban and Suburban Taxpayers for Welfare Reform, they will attempt to counter some of the myths about welfare and make necessary improvements.

The New Haven chapter is one of nine in a statewide coalition. The other chapters are located in Bridgeport, Middletown, New Britain, New London, Norwich, Stamford, Waterbury and Hartford. This coalition has a three point program.

Three Point Program

1) It is urging the State Welfare Department to postpone for 120 days any action on the proposed cuts in benefits.

2) It is organizing an educational effort designed to deal with the myths and misconceptions surrounding welfare, to bring to the citizenry knowledge and data regarding welfare.

3) It plans to solicit citizen and legislative support for welfare programs designed to assist welfare recipients adequately.

The New Haven chapter, which came into being on Oct. 5, was initiated by Family Services. This group, together with the Urban League, met with representatives from several other groups in order to get an idea who would support the MOMS and work for change in welfare as a member of the coalition. Response was great and the coalition now consists of several individuals and over 25 social agencies and area groups. Some of the groups in the coalition are The League of Women Voters, Christian Community Action, Travelers Aid, Students and faculty from Southern Ct., New Haven Legal Assistance, and several church groups.

The target of the educational program is the surrounding suburban communities. Volunteers from each town will set up meetings, coffee klatches, brochures, panel discussions and other programs with as many groups in their communities as they can reach. The purpose of these meetings would be to clarify some false ideas people have about welfare.

As shown in a leaflet put out by The League of Women Voters, there are many misconceptions about welfare.

Myths About Welfare

1) It is thought that there is a high rate of fraud by people on welfare. This is false. 1971 figures (based on HEW statistics) show that less than one per cent of persons receiving aid have tried to cheat in any way.

2) It is thought that welfare families have a large number of children, mostly illegitimate. This is false. The average family on welfare has 2 or 3 children. In spite of increasing welfare roles, the illegitimacy rate among welfare families has not increased in ten years.

3) It is thought that people on welfare are lazy and won't work. This is false. Most welfare mothers either work or want to work. Less than one per cent of all those on welfare are able-bodied men. And perhaps these people could work if there were sufficient child care facilities, or if there were job training programs or if there were enough jobs available.

Families Face Eviction

Twelve per cent of all New Haven residents are on welfare. That's 4,252 families. Only 900 of these families are in public housing. This means that if the proposed cuts go through, all those other families will face eviction. With this fact in mind, the coalition is exploring the question of whose responsibility these families will be.

Ron Benson, a representative from the New Haven Committee to Free Angela Davis, a coalition member, feels that the group is an effective one because of all the people it is reaching. It is getting to the suburbanites, who are the taxpayers and the voters, and who directly influence the legislators, who in turn influence the governor. For this reason it should be somewhat successful.

WILLIAM KING: IN CONCERT

"I consider myself a revolutionary, and therefore I must be able to play more than one role. A scholar today, a janitor tomorrow, and whatever is necessary after that." It was within this context that William King, baritone, graduate student at Yale's school of music, spoke of his upcoming free concert at Sprague Hall on December 2, at 8: 8:30 p.m.

When asked how serious music fits in with a revolutionary's life he said, "I believe in relating to the people. My people are black and one way I can do it is through music."

His accompanist is Benjamin Ward, accomplished pianist and Ph.D. candidate at Yale.

(M-T photo by Kurt Lueders)

Welfare Cuts Attacked

Continued from page 1

question - "What would you do if you were on welfare and forced to survive on this budget?" One legislator who had previously claimed that he had voted in favor of welfare and against the will of his own constituency, responded with the statement, "I'd go out and get a job."

Although the legislators seemed on on the whole sympathetic to the welfare recipients' demands, there appeared to be some political in-fighting among them. To this, Gale Coleman, Vice-President of the New Haven Welfare MOMS, addressed herself by stating: "I get upset because every time we get together, I hear bickering between Democrats and Republicans. It gets me concerned because what we are talking about is people's lives."

Labor Council Statement

Sheldon Johnson, representing the Connecticut State Labor Council, expressed opposition to the proposed flat grant system and on behalf of the council called for a moratorium on its implementation.

He said, "We know from careful statistics that over 90% of those on welfare are incapable of working either through age, disabilities, or family obligations, such as care for school age children.

"We also know that with 150,000 unemployed in the State, of whom 70,000 have exhausted unemployment compensation benefits, there is little chance of present welfare recipients finding work of any kind."

Wessel, a local doctor and member of the County Medical Association, described the inadequacies and consequences of the Meskill program:

"Implementation of the plan as suggested by Governor Meskill will take Connecticut out of the leadership in the field of social welfare... Infants and children will be forced on to the streets. Children will be hungry. Disease will increase. Children will be unable to go to school because they will have no clothes to wear.

"I believe that this policy will bring Connecticut's official welfare program dangerously close to class and racial genocide --- a policy that we are so quick to condemn in other countries."

Cuts Costly in Long Run

Many of the speakers emphasized that the cuts will actually inflict costs on taxpayers. Reverend Jim Davis of the United Methodist Church maintained that "money saved today will have to be paid two-fold in the future, both in medical and correctional expenses." This very point had been previously argued by Ruth Johnson of Dixwell Legal Rights, herself a welfare recipient whose court case against Welfare Commissioner White had brought the cuts to a temporary halt.

Not only will future expenses caused by the cuts be significant, but the amount of state money needed to restore the original amount is only $5 million, according to a spokesman from Legal Aid. That is because under the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program, the federal government matches state payments by 50%. Nevertheless, restoring welfare to the previous amount is in itself inadequate since no increases in welfare have been granted since 1968, during which time inflation has undercut the recipients purchasing power.

Peter Wolff, President of the Union of Welfare Employees, testifies at Welfare hearing. (M-T photo by Paul Gill.)

Peter Wolff, President of the Union of Welfare Employees, testified that many statistical inaccuracies concerning welfare are being presented by the Meskill administration. "We ought to know," Wolff stated, "since we are the ones that prepare the statistics which Meskill ends up distorting." Wolff maintained that the cuts range from 15% to as much as 50%, "the largest cuts hitting those whose needs are the greatest."

Another area welfare worker testified to the widespread dissatisfaction among case workers toward Meskill and his administration. He stated that a petition circulating in his welfare office, calling for Welfare Commissioner White's resignation, had been signed by 80% of the workers. He went on to ask the committee, "what qualifications does any millionaire have to work with poor people?"

Perhaps that question had been previously answered by a statement made by Ronald Benson, a spokesman for the New Haven Committee to Free Angela Davis:

"How much sensitivity to the needs of poor people and children can be expected from men like Meskill and White, who belong to the highest ruling circles of the state of Connecticut? Commissioner White's business connections include: Corporate Air, Inc., the Hartford National Bank and Trust Company, LaPointe Industries, American Can Company, the Life Insurance Management Company and Data Appliance Corporation."

W.H. MOMS Start Group

by Leslie Church
Caseworker

Amid the current crisis in State Welfare and the anxiety created by major changes in the department, the Welfare Moms Organization stands as one of the very few recourses available to AFDC (Aid for Families with Dependent Children) mothers. Support for the Moms is reaching the towns.

West Haven mothers are coming together.

In this town live approximately 400 AFDC families who, for the most part, are isolated fro m one another; who, like other Welfare recipients, are anxious, bewildered and angry over the things that have been happening to them in recent months.

They are beginning to feel the need to organize. They are beginning to feel the necessity of getting together for mutual support.

For those who participated in the trip to Hartford to meet with Governor Meskill and attended the various open hearings on Welfare, the Moms is seen as a viable political pressure group. For others, less active but deeply concerned, the organization offers an opportunity to share common problems and solutions, in addition to airing grievances.

And for everyone involved, it means a ready and reliable source of information on the current Welfare situation and organized client activity in the greater New Haven area.

Always of real benefit to the AFDC mother, the Welfare Moms at this time are playing a vital role in Welfare change.

Notices of organizational activities have been sent to as many West Haven mothers as possible and responses has been gaining momentum. Caseworkers have been spreading the word among their clients. The West Haven Community House has cooperated in the use of their facilities.

The West Haven Moms are well on their way.

Vets Fasting As Holiday War Protest

by Jack Smith
Vietnam Veterans Against the War

Even as Americans celebrate their Thanksgiving holiday many people in the world and in our country suffer at our hands. For the Vietnamese this day will mean another peiod of air strikes, relocation, pacification, "Vietnamization."

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) have set Thanksgiving Day as a day on which those Americans sensitive to the value of life gather to demonstrate their commitment to the growing spirit of humanity.

About 100 members of the Connecticut chapter of VVAW will gather at the capitol in Hartford for a dawn to dusk fast. They are inviting all the people of America to join them at any time during that period. At dusk they will break their fast with a memorial service for the over one million victims of the war in Indochina.

Active Duty GIs

People on active duty in Europe, the Pacific, Indochina and here at home will be conducting their own memorial services, sacrificing their traditional Thanksgiving Day meal. The GIs in Vietnam and the Quaker project at Quang Ngai have already written to join in the fast and boycott.

The veterans are calling on the congregations of the various churches and temples in this country to have special memorial services before attending the traditional family gathering.

The vets call upon families and friends to gather in the traditional manner for a simpler meal with a special blessing for the tragic victims of the war in Indochina.

All participants are urged to contribute to the American Friends Service Committee Rehabilitation Project, a center for Vietnamese who have lost limbs as a result of this conflict. Checks can be made payable to AFSC/Thanksgiving, P. O. Box 935, Madison Square Station, New York, N. Y. 10010.

Tax Resisting Cyclists Roll Into Last Lap

by Carolyn Wentworth
New England C.N.V.A.

900 miles down, 300 miles to go!! Project Roll, the war tax resistance bicycle caravan, has only a couple of weeks left to go on its two month, twelve hundred mile trek through New England. The caravan left Orono, Maine on September 27, has travelled through Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Eastern New York State, and Connecticut.

The caravan ends in Andover, Massachusetts, home of the North-Atlantic regional headquarters of the Internal Revenue Service. Here, on November 24, the day before America celebrates Thanksgiving, some Americans are celebrating LIFE-GIVING-DAY – A Day of National War Tax Resistance. This celebration climaxes these two months of intensive effort to communicate with as many New Englanders as possible, bringing the message of war tax resistance: how people can say to the United States government, "I don't want to pay for war any more – and I don't want to strongly enough that I am going to do something about it!" People are declaring some of the ways they will take that strong an actual resistance.

NHPAC Plans Bengal Teach-In

by John Ratliff
New Haven PAC

The New Haven Peace Action Coalition (NHPAC) is meeting weekly to work on programs for following up on the October 13 and November 6 anti-war activities. We are currently making plans for a National Anti-War Convention in Cleveland and a Teach-in about the current problems in East Pakistan.

Prof. Nurul Islam, an economics professor at Yale and recent refugee from East Pakistan, spoke to a recent NHPAC meeting. His discussion of the political plight of his country made clear to many of us the parallels between the way West Pakistan is acting in Bengal, and the way the United States has acted in Vietnam. One alarming feature of the situation is the fact that many of the operations of West Pakistan are already dependent on U.S. aid. All of us felt that we could not afford to remain silent on East Bengal. Otherwise we might force an end to the Vietnam war only to see our badly needed funds and human resources siphoned off to cause death and misery in another part of the world.

The initial plans have been laid for a Teach-in which will be conducted in December or January, depending on the availability of speakers. The hope is that we will be able to clearly present the issues in the sometimes confusing situation for the people of New Haven and the college communities of our town. In addition to Bengalis and movement activists with special knowledge, the Teach-in will include professors and political figures.

The Cleveland Anti-War Convention is scheduled for December 3, 4, and 5, and is expected to democratically lay the plans for continuing our efforts nationally against the war. NHPAC is arranging transportation to make sure that as many people from the New Haven area as possible will be able to attend and participate in the decisions. All those interested can contact the NHPAC office from 1:00 to 4:00 daily, at 777-4265.

We in Connecticut who are against this state of affairs feel that a great deal of work lies ahead, but we also have gained confidence in our ability to combine with other people around the country and effectively struggle to end the war. The Convention in Cleveland will be an important way for those of us here to coordinate with people around the country for the next stage of that struggle. Anti-war action in the next phase, and New Haven participation in such action, should be larger, stronger, and broader than ever before.

Abortion Law Challenged

(M-T photo by Chris Pattee)

by Virginia Blaisdell
N. H. Women's Liberation

"The time has come now: not the government, nor the church, nor the army will stop us until we are free to determine what we will do with our bodies."

The speaker was Dr. Barbara Roberts of the Women's Abortion Action Coalition (WNAAC) at a rally held Saturday, November 19 in Washington, D.C. Over 4000 women (and men) marched to the steps of the Capitol to demand the right for women to choose whether they will carry a pregnancy to term or not.

The marchers were protesting the numerous state and federal laws that force women either to bear unwanted children or to seek illegal "back-alley" abortions at great risk to their dignity, health, and even their lives.

According to Beulah Sanders, one of the speakers, one out of every four women in this country has had or will have an abortion some time in their lives. Of these, thousands die every year, others are mutilated--psychologically and physically--and thousands more, especially poor and black women, are sterilized against their will and often without their knowledge.

New Haven was well represented at the rally by a large contingent of women including a bus load of students from the High School in the Community, by the New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band which played before and between the speakers, and by Dr. Barbara Roberts who recently moved from New Haven to Washington to set up a women's abortion clinic.

Other women came from distant parts of the country--Wisconsin, Minnesota, Florida, Alabama,--and simultaneous demonstrations were held in San Francisco and Canada. They carried such signs as "We want to be leaders, not breeders" and "Sterilize Senators." They chanted and sang and danced. The New Haven Women's Band played a song written especially for the march--"Abortion is our right" and the crowd joined in singing "we will decide how many children we bear/we're gonna control our own life."

A featured speaker was Shirley Wheeler, a woman from Florida who has the distinction of being the only woman in U.S. history (or in the history of the English-speaking world) ever to be found guilty of *having* an abortion. She is currently appealling her conviction, a suspended sentence, **with a 2 year probation.**

The terms of her probation lay bare the patriarchal roots of this country's anti-abortion laws: she is required to either marry the man by whom she was made pregnant or return home to her family and live there. She may not enter a bar or night-club (she is 23) and may not marry anyone other than the man mentioned above.

According to the WNAAC analysis, the probation reveals that the state, in making and enforcing anti-abortion laws, is concerned not so much with the "sanctity of the fetus," but with controlling the reproductive and even social lives of women by legislating the double standard.

Women Review Economic Status

by Tricia Tunstall
Modern Times Staff

Yale University was confronted on the weekend of November 13-14 with the unfamiliar sight of a gathering of more than 250 women within its walls, when women from all over the country came together for a conference entitled "Economic Perspectives on Women." The conference, held at the Law School, marked the first feminist meeting to focus directly on the relationship of women to the economy.

Among the sponsors of the event were the Women's Caucus of the Union for Radical Political Economists, *the Yale Law Women's Association, the New Haven Women's Research Project, and the Graduate Economics Club at Yale.*

The conference was not simply a convention of professional economists. A painter from Ithaca, a welfare worker from New Orleans, a teacher in a "free school" near Boston, a school-bus driver from New Haven – women from all fields of work were drawn together not by a common profession but by their common anger at the oppression of women by the economy.

The 18 workshops were devoted to exchanging practical information and developing ways to bring about change in the relations of women to corporate, legislative, union, academic, and family spheres. Workshops entitled "Women and Welfare" and "Women in the Labor Force" discussed the discriminatory practices of a society in which over twice as many women as men live below official poverty levels, and in which women's wages are held low by crowding them into a limited number of "feminine" occupations.

Workshop discussions emphasized again and again that in struggling to gain fair treatment for women in the economic structure, women must work also to change that structure to one more decent, more equitable and more humane for everyone in society. The conflict that can occur between these two goals was a central concern for many women.

During the weekend a number of plans for future activity were formulated. The women economists present resolved to "form a presence" at the December meeting of the AEA (American Economics Association) in New Orleans. And a conference on the subject of "Marxism and Feminism" is being planned for the weekend of December 4th in Boston.

Editorial Phase Two

Just about the only good to come out of Nixon's new economic policies, is the joining together of a more unified, more determined mass of Americans prepared to fight them. We at **Modern Times** are ready to do our part to stop Nixon from solving the economic problems caused by the giant U.S. corporations by squeezing even more profits for them out of working people's wages.

Secondly, an important lesson we have all learned is that the organized labor movement offers *all* working people—in or out of unions—the only real power to slow or stop harmful government policies. Whatever the union leaders may do or not do with the power they could wield, one suggestion by George Meany does deserve our support and attention. The AFL-CIO has proposed that local unions (or central labor councils of unions) establish "price watchdog committees." These committees are to include AFL-CIO unions, independent unions, community groups and even interested individual working people. Their basic purpose is to focus the united pressure of working people on businesses to stop them from illegally raising prices and cheating consumers. They are also to serve as sources of information. The experience of united labor-community action in the common interest of working people may hopefully help us to train our powerful unity on all the problems we face: from jobs to schools, health care, etc.

It is an exciting prospect to consider all the things we could do if working people were as well organized to act as businessmen already are. **Modern Times** is glad to offer its pages to explain and to publicize the actions of the Price Watchdog Committee which we hope the local labor movement will soon establish.

See the Price Commission Watching Prices Rise

by Rick Wolff
Economist

Nixon's plan to control the level of prices in America is, as the saying goes, "lots of sound and fury, signifying nothing." Not only are there hundreds of loopholes, but in many cases the government can't do anything even when it finds an illegal price increase.

Worse yet, Nixon's Price Commission has already been busy rapidly granting exemptions to firms seeking price increases.

The announced purpose of it all is to limit the *general*, average increase in prices to 2.5 per cent per year. If it is only the *average* that can go up 2.5 per cent, that means that some prices can go up by more and some by less.

So the big question is which firm gets to be on which side of the holy average? This and hundreds of other unanswered questions cloud the picture of what the "price control" will really mean.

Watchdog Committees

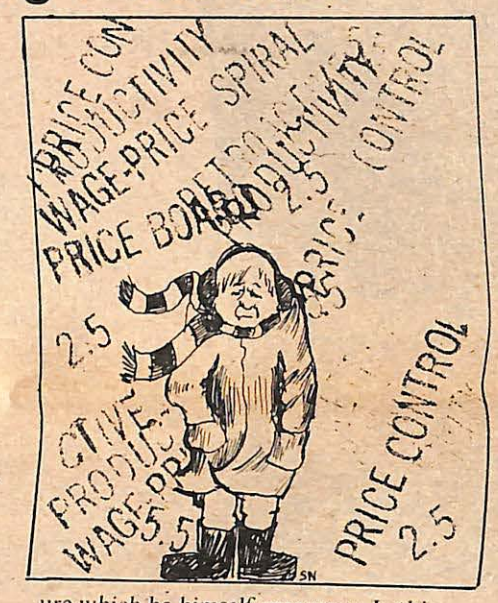
This serves to underline the importance of supporting the efforts of the labor movement and others to set up price watchdog committees. By drawing attention to companies that raise prices, committees of this kind can both put some real pressure on prices *and* force the government to answer all the questions and close the loopholes.

To prove the point, let's take a little guided tour through all the double talk. What is Phase Two of the price freeze? How is it supposed to work?

Let's start with the question of how far firms may raise prices. The Price Commission says that any company cannot change prices without "taking into account productivity gains." By productivity they mean increases in output per man-hour. If productivity goes up, a company may not be legally free to increase prices. But the simple fact is that it is very, very difficult to measure such change accurately, especially for smaller businesses.

Who's Kidding Who?

So Mr. C. Jackson Grayson, Price Commission Chairman, has an idea: the businessman facing the problem of measuring productivity should "try to do it himself." Now picture that: the businessman who raises his prices is to be limited by a productivity measure which he himself measures. Is this an effective means of controlling prices?



Consider retail stores. They are not allowed to raise prices until they meet two conditions. First, they must publicly post a list of the basic prices of foods and "other selected items." Second, they can only raise prices when they have higher costs.

Yet the Price Commission chose not to require retailers to post any list of cost increases. (They were rather "encouraged" to do so). The result: when you notice price increases in the store you won't know, nor can you demand that the store owner prove his right to do this. Is that control?

Doctors are allowed to raise their prices only if they don't "increase their average profit per patient." What is that? How in the world do you measure "profit per patient"?

No Price Control

There are many other similar marvels. What they all go to show is that Nixon refuses to really control prices because "we think that this is too much an invasion of the privacy of our free enterprise system, for any person to be able to get the complete records of a firm." The words come from chairman Grayson.

If you can't really see a company's books, you can never truly know whether price or cost or productivity increases are real or just cooked-up excuses by eager executives.

All this should not mean that we don't bother to complain about price increases. Complain loudly and clearly. That may force the Price Commission to clear up the clouds of confusion. That may add pressure to keep down prices.

The complaints should go to the I.R.S., 1221-1227,Chapel St. 772-0800

Write on

Child's Sex Roles

To the Editors:

The New Haven Association for the Education of Young Children would like to invite you to participate in a discussion of "Sex Role Conditioning in Early Childhood." There will be three groups led by area teachers. The group topics are: How sex roles are taught through books and television; What happens in classrooms; and Theories of child development and child rearing.

The discussion will be held on Monday, November 29, in the cafeteria of Conte School in Wooster Square and will begin at 7:30 P.M. The admission is free to members and $1.00 for guests. Everyone is welcome.

The New Haven Association for the Education of Young Children

SCSCStudiesEnvironment

To the Editors:

For the past two years the Environmental Studies Center at Southern Connecticut State College has attempted to function as a source of environmental information for regional organizations. The Center, under the direction of Mrs. Dorothy Noyes Kane, has achieved national recognition through its sponsorship of two summer institutes and a seminar program on environmental law.

Awareness of the Center by the people of Connecticut has been limited because of the failure of Southern's administration to commit itself to environmental education. This is seen by the Center's leaders as a serious denial of a proven high quality program to both the students and the people of Connecticut.

The Center has functioned as a catalyst. Students are introduced to the complexities of Connecticut's environmental problems and they in turn select an area for independent study. The result of the two summer institutes has been 96 highly factual and up to date reports on issues ranging from the Highway Trust to the need for environmental education in the public shcools.

Four graduates of the Environmental Law Seminar recently were called upon to make presentations at the Park Plaza Hotel in New Haven for a program sponsored by the Connecticut Action Fund.

Students from Southern are currently involved in a study of West Haven's Cove River salt marsh in an attempt to assess both the effects of sewage and oil on the marsh and the need for either replacement or removal of the present tide gates. Another student group is studying the National Highway Council's "Explode the Myths Campaign." The effects of highways on the environment will be examined. A third student group will soon be organized to finalize a 1500 source listing of current environmental literature.

The Environmental Studies Center exists not only for the students, but also for the community. It is an unique attempt to bring education closer to the taxpayers who support it.

David Emerson
Environmental Awareness Council

Newark Teachers' Plea

Editors Note: This letter was passed on to **Modern Times** *by concerned New Haven teachers.*

To the Editors:

NEWARK UNION TEACHERS NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN!

The United States Supreme Court has refused to hear the Appeals of the 200 arrested union teachers in Newark, New Jersey.

These brothers and sisters face immediate jail terms.

Telegrams, letters and petitions from as many citizens as possible to Governor Cahill, urging executive clemency is their last hope.

Your help may prevent needless jailings which will do nothing to remedy the conditions that caused the strike.

Won't you take the time from your *busy day to support these brothers* and sisters and their local at this crucial time by contacting Governor Cahill.

TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY
Carole A. Graves
President
Newark Teachers Union

FAIR HAVEN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

"What's wrong with the educational system and what can be done about it?" The Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation invites the general public to participate in a day long conference on this question on Saturday, December 11.

The conference will be held at the Fair Haven Middle School, 164 Grand Avenue, beginning at 8:30 a.m. There will be a keynote speaker, the movie, "High School" and at least eight workshops. The workshops will be on human relations in the schools, open classrooms, High School alternatives, preschool programs, school councils, bi-lingual education, adult education, paraprofessional training, and drug education.

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MODERN TIMES is a non-profit volunteer labor publication of the American Independent Movement

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where the hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement (AIM) has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent helath care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Jan Baecker, Elizabeth Bennett, Marshall Bergen, Virginia Blaisdell, Matt Borenstein, Arlene Butler, Greg Butler, Katrina Clark, Ellen Comisso, Arlyce Currie, Joan Dimow, Joe Dimow, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Suzy Duling, Steve Ellner, Art Fleischner, Linda Garson, Sam Goodwin, Harry Henderson, Liz Henderson, Bill Hersey, Shoshana Hersey, Larry Hogan, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Alan Kay, Henry Lowendorf, Pat Lowendorf, Scott McIntosh, Alan McKnight, Art Mazer, Patti Miller, John Moldenhauer, Kathy Moldenhauer, John Moulder, Betty Murray, Stephanie Ney, Steve Ney, Laurie Nussdorfer, Barbara O'Connell, Craig O'Connell, Peter O'Connell, April Reiss, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Greg Smith, June Taylor, Dan Vapnek, Virginia Walbot, Dick Wieland, Karen Wolff, Rick Wolff.

World Affairs

Puerto Rican Future Tied To Island

by Steve Ellner
Modern Times Staff

This is the second of a series of three articles on Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans.

Poor people combat the despair and hopelessness associated with their conditions by forming an organized movement which struggles to eliminate their poverty. In writing about a Puerto Rican slum family in the book "La Vida," Oscar Lewis makes this very point: "Any movement which organizes and gives hope to the poor and effectively promotes solidarity and a sense of identification with larger groups, destroys the psychological and social core of the culture of poverty."

Emigration has certainly been a valid reason for despair among the one out of three native Puerto Ricans who have come to this country and to New Haven in recent years. They are subjected to harassment and discrimination, reduced to accepting the hardest and least well-paid jobs, and are crowded together into the ghettos of big American cities.

That Puerto Ricans are beginning to realize that the answer to these conditions of dire poverty lie in united action is indicated by the recent emergence of militant movements in places like Chicago, Newark, New York and Bridgeport.

Why the Mass Exodus?

Puerto Ricans emigrate to the US in search of jobs. Unemployment on the island, although officially calculated at 14.3 %, has been estimated to be as high as 30 %.

Puerto Rican workers, acting as cheap labor reserves, play an important role in the capitalist economy of this country. Capitalism, with its constant economic ups and downs finds useful the employment of these workers during good periods, and does not hesitate to lay them off during the recessions. Thus the expression: *"Last to be hired and first to be fired."*

Puerto Rican workers are especially prominent in the electrical, garment, and textile industries. Almost two thirds of the Puerto Rican immigrants are women who are doubly discriminated against: first because of their nationality and second on account of their sex.

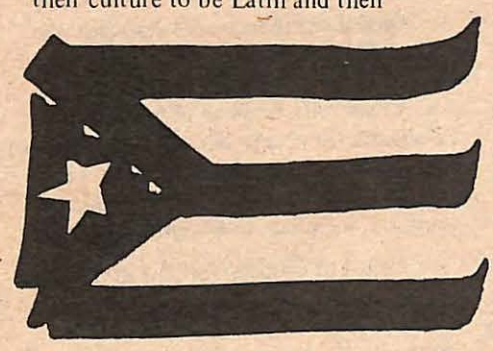
In the community as well as on the job, Puerto Ricans are considered "second class." In New Haven, for example, 10,000 Puerto Ricans live mostly in the Hill area and to a lesser degree in Fair Haven and on State Street. What was once a limited program to teach English and other skills to these Hispanos has been drastically reduced by recent budget cuts.

Thus the Skill Center on Cedar Street which had offered students a one-year program of English training now takes students for mere 10-week periods. The number of students at the Skill Center is now half of what it was a few years ago, while the one other program of full-time English training, called Adult Basic Education, has had financial reductions of equal proportion.

The Return Trip

Since Puerto Ricans come here almost solely for job opportunities, they do not hesitate to return to their nation when the scarcity of available jobs becomes evident. Statistics show that in recent years more Puerto Ricans have left this country than have come here.

Furthermore, encouraged by inexpensive plane fares between San Juan and New York, Puerto Ricans travel frequently to the island to reunite with their families. These large numbers of trips back to the island point to the close ties that most immigrants feel toward "Boriquen," their homeland. Even though they may have lived here for decades, they continue to consider their culture to be Latin and their



language Spanish. Accordingly, they resist pressure to supplant what they have with an American style of life.

It is not at all surprising therefore that militant Puerto Rican organizations that struggle against conditions of poverty here in the US also strongly relate to the movement for Puerto Rican independence. For the members of these groups, as well as with others, the political events on the island are as important as what happens in their own slums.

The most prominent of the militant Puerto Rican organizations is the Young Lords Party. Originating in Chicago, chapters of the group now exist in South Bronx, East (Spanish)Harlem, Newark, Bridgeport, and elsewhere. The Young Lords have organized people to work together on problems in their communities, the "barrios," such as garbage collection, tenant eviction and the feeding of hungry children.

Their actions have often served to dramatize their demands. In October, 1970, after New York City had ignored their request for more frequent garbage collection, they heaped large amounts of uncollected garbage on the main avenues, which they then burnt. Since these very streets were travelled mostly by suburbanites, the Lords' action became widely known.

Perhaps one indication of the rebirth of real pride among the Puerto Rican community is the large numbers of Puerto Rican flags one sees on cars and buildings in the barrio. One button in particular, eluminates the new attitude of hope among these people. It reads "Tengo Puerto Rico en mi corazon," which means "I have Puerto Rico in my heart."

The Young Lords are not alone in their struggles around the conditions of the "barrios." At their side are numerous welfare, tenant and neighborhood groups consisting of Puerto Ricans, blacks, and poor whites.

The two fundamental demands of the Young Lords--Puerto Rican independence and that control of their communities be given to the people who reside in them--recognize a fundamental characteristic of Puerto Ricans in this country: while their day to day lives center around the barrio, their past and their future is very much tied to the island from which they came.

China Needs Time; U.S. Needs Customers

by Stephen Resnick
Modern Times Staff

China's joining the United Nations signals a major shake up in world affairs and in the U.S. position internationally. The United Nations vote to admit China ended an era of United States foreign policy in the Far East. Ever since Chiang Kai-shek and the nationalists fled to Taiwan in November of 1949, the United States has spent billions to maintain and protect that corrupt regime. But the creation of a military state in Taiwan was not sufficient. The borders surrounding China had to be defended and thus the tragedies of Korea, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia followed. The lives of thousands of young men as well as dollars needed at home were spent to intervene in one Asian civil war after another. Dissent at home during the 1960's mirrored this incredible waste of resources in the Far East. And the Pentagon Papers revealed to all the continuity of these policies from Truman to Nixon.

The Chinese arriving in New York and Nixon's coming trip to Peking create an atmosphere of excitement and perhaps an expectation of change. This is especially true for the UN whose fortunes recently hit a new low, remarkable even for that less than dynamic institution.

In part, what we observe is the beginning of Nixon's reelection campaign. But the changes in US and Chinese policies are part of history, and so is Nixon. The growing strength of China in the world reflects the relatively declining power of the US as well as the USSR. And when the world of super-powers is being discussed, only a fool would omit Japan.

A new and more complex international era may be upon us. The Taiwanese regime has outlived its usefulness. Washington discards it like the last stage of a rocket. Much of mainland Southeast Asia has neither been won nor lost; it has been destroyed. But the ultimate goals of the US and China have not changed. What has been modified is the strategy to obtain those goals. Thus, a new foreign policy is emerging consistent with the new international era. This is what we are observing now in New York and Peking.

China's Aims Today

The Chinese communists aim to create a nation of modern industrial workers: "The transformation of the village into a factory and of the peasant into a worker." To make this transformation requires not only an incredible economic effort but also time. Yet, the Chinese believe that not only is coexistence impossible in the long run between a capitalist country like the US and a socialist country like China, but that conflicts among capitalist countries will break out. How then can the Chinese believe that the US is the number one enemy in the world, yet sit with it at the UN and entertain its leaders in Peking?

First of all, the Chinese believe that periods of peace between the US and China are not only possible but perhaps necessary to achieve the long run Chinese goal of socialism. Second, in Chinese thinking, an arrangement with the US may put pressures on the Russians to reassume their role as the first socialist state. The bitter attacks of the Chinese against the Russians and the arrangement with the Americans may be seen as one action. By making a temporary peace with with the US, the Chinese hope to force the Russians back into line as the leader of a world revolutionary movement. They want to push the Russians to reexamine their own relationships with the US and China. This intensification of the ideological conflict may force the Russians to see the US as the true enemy not to be trusted and more dangerous than ever in its phase of declining world power.

Japan's New Importance

A final major reason for China's new arrangement with the US is the growing problem of Japan in Asia. There is no reason to believe that Japanese political power will continue to lag behind its economic power. And when political power catches up to economic, Japan will be the major capitalist threat to China in the Far East. What the Japanese could not accomplish in World War II, they are attempting to achieve now: the integration of Southeast Asia into the expanding Japanese economy. Thus, the Chinese arrangement with the US introduces tension not only between the Russians and the US, but between the Japanese and the US as well.

Similar to World War II, a common enemy for both China and the US is Japan. The competition between the Americans and the Japanese for markets and especially for control over Far Eastern oil resources grows increasingly fierce. In fact, the battle over oil is similar to what existed in 1940 when the Japanese oil sources were controlled by American, Dutch and British interests.

The American arrangement with China accomplished with no advance warning to the Japanese government was our Pearl Harbor against Japan: the battle is on again.

You are invited to meet

PAUL M. SWEEZY

Recently returned from consultations with President Allende of Chile

EDITOR • ECONOMIST • WRITER

Speaking on

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Dr. Sweezy will be introduced by Rev. Willard Uphaus.

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ON FILM

Films Feature The Gun Behind The Badge

by Peter O'Connell
Modern Times Staff

THE FRENCH CONNECTION directed by William Friedkin. Starring: Gene Hackman, Fernando Rey.

THE MURDER OF FRED HAMPTON. A documentary by Mike Gray.

The cop as killer is the real subject of two current films begun with other purposes in mind.

Radical film-maker Mike Gray (who also worked on Emile de Antonio's *Millhouse*) originally intended to present a portrait of one of black America's most militant and effective spokesman in action. But Black Panther Fred Hampton was slain in 1969 by Chicago police in what was called at first a "shootout by violence-prone Black Panthers." It soon became clear, though, that the "shootout" was really a "shootin", and the Panthers were prone because they were sleeping when they became the victims of police violence. Mike Gray was one of the first to reach the scene of this crime. His documentary *The Murder of Fred Hampton* was shown at the Yale Law School four times on November 9 and also at Quinnipiac College and Wesleyan University. Proceeds from the film went to benefit *Modern Times*. Commercial distributors have refused to handle the film.

Film Presents Evidence

The second half of the film presents the visual evidence of assassination in Hampton's apartment and records the attempts of police to whitewash their deed.

The first half of the film dealing with Hampton's organizing activities conveys a sense of the almost charismatic potential of the 21-year old Panther. We see him speaking in a church with "soul-style" oratory. We see him "defending" *himself at a "people's jury hearing" on police charges of stealing ice cream to give to children. We see him advocating* education, socialism, and black-white anti-racist solidarity in conferences with black nationalists and capitalists. We see him urging armed self-defense.

Knowing what the second half of the film is to deal with, we feel tense poignancy as Hampton talks about "offing the pigs" and "power coming out of the barrel of a gun."

We know that it is the police, not the Panthers, who will act on this axiom of Mao's that Hampton tries to convey to the black community with a rhetoric made confused and desperate by the love that underlies his rage. And it is intense love of the people that comes through as Hampton's motivating force, comes through despite the murky photography and staticky sound track created by the conditions of filming.

And it was this love, not Panther threats, that the killing machine that is American racism could not tolerate. And so a police squad, including a token black, broke into Fred Hampton's apartment in the dead-of-night from front and back with machine guns blazing and killed him while he slept in bed with his pregnant mate.

Gray shows us the doors riddled with bullet holes all made from the police positions and none from the positions of the Panthers whom the police claimed were firing at them. He shows us the walls stitched with straight lines of bullet holes while police claim that they shot in irregular patterns to avoid hitting the residents of the apartment. He shows us Hampton's books and newspapers stuck tight to the floor with his blood. He shows us the police laughing and smiling as they carry off Hampton's body. And he shows us well-dressed, well-groomed State's Attorney Hanrahan lying and lying and lying.

****

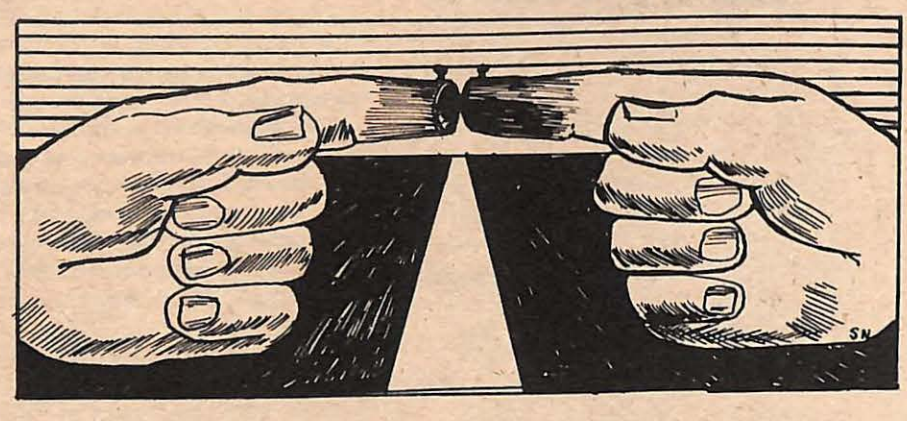
Director William Friedkin, according to his own and critics' accounts, made *The French Connection* to bring out the humanity, both good points and bad points, of America's police and to show that the bad points are inevitable offshoots of the waging of a successful war against crime.

Apparently Friedkin intended to follow up his popular success *The Boys in the Band* with a kind of *The Boys with the Badge*. The film is based on a book by Robin Moore (author of *The Green Berets*) about a real-life spectacular bust of an international drug ring that took place in New York a few years ago.

One of the detectives who made the bust, Eddie Egan, even plays a bit role in the film as a police captain. Gene Hackman stars as Eddie (Egan) Doyle. Fernando Rey steps out of his usual suave and subtle villain roles in Luis Bunuel films to play the suave but not-quite-so-subtle chief villain in Friedkin's film.

Instead of bringing out the humanity of the police, however, *The French Connection* presents us with what amount to moral monsters in plainclothes, behind shields. Doyle beats up suspects, arrests some and releases others in arbitrary fashion, propositions women, and seems as hostile toward some other policemen as he does toward the dope peddlers. He shows no understanding of the social factors involved in the drug problem; he is contemptuous of the legal restrictions of the courts; his pursuit of the criminals comes across as an ego trip rather than law enforcement.

As Hackman plays the revenger figure (who is as corrupt as the objects of his vengeance), this kind of character has no tragic overtones; he's just another "joe." In fact, Hackman uses many of the same



mannerisms and expressions -- and even the same kind of pork-pie hat -- used by Peter Boyle in *Joe*.

Like *Joe* and *All in the Family*, *The French Connection* is also liberally sprinkled, in the currently fashionable mode of "humor", with terms of ethnic abuse: "niggers," "dagos," "greasers," "frogs," "spicks."

The police in the film are not guilty of moral lapses alone. We are supposed to admire their doggedness in tracking their suspects for weeks. Their techniques are, though, as full of holes as the people they shoot. (Friedkin is addicted to shots of spurting blood.) They trail suspects incessantly at a distance of only a few feet; they stand for hours in full view of the crooks, etc. With this kind of bungling, no wonder it took them so long!

They are as careless of the lives of innocent bystanders as they are of the lives of the criminals. In a sequence acclaimed by critics, Doyle in a car chases a killer riding overhead in an elevated train. Rather than calling ahead and having police at every stop of the el, Doyle has to drive like a madman through crowded city streets scattering motorists and pedestrians while the killer is given time to bring about the death of three more people (including a black transit patrolman). In his clodishness and machismo, Doyle is basically as much a killer as the gunman whom he eventually slays - with spurting blood.

Friedkin's cinematographic technique does manage to convey some gritty sense of place through location shooting in New York, but most of the time the director is as unimaginative as his cops. The chase sequence, for example, is copied after one of the shows in the tv series of a few years ago, *The Naked City*, and is far inferior to the one in *Bullitt*.

The film ends with a climactic shootout in which Doyle, in his eagerness to catch the head of the dope ring, shoots another police officer by mistake and allows "frog number one" to escape.

A policeman's lot is not a happy one. Neither is the lot of people who have to live in a society with cops like those in *The Murder of Fred Hampton* and *The French Connection*.

Co-op Buying Holds Food Prices Down

Spinach - .19 lb.
Lemons - .04 each
Lettuce - .30 head
Lg. Grade A Eggs - .46 doz.

(Prices for the week of Nov. 14-21)

If these prices are substantially lower than the ever increasing rates you've been paying in New Haven's supermarkets, then you should consider joining a growing group of residents who refuse to subsidize chain stores around this city. The New Haven food co-op has been in existence for five weeks now and we offer a list of fresh fruit, produce, and grains at prices that most people can finally afford.

An initial group of 30 people has grown to some 175 participants who would like to be able to survive as costs soar during this period of so-called "price freeze." We have found that by working together each week, we can survive and eat well too.

To join, you need simply obtain an order blank, fill it out, bring your money and order to one of the three designated collection centers around New Haven on Friday, and pick your food up on Saturday. At present there are collection and distribution centers in the Hill-Howard Ave. area, the downtown-Dwight area, and the Mansfield-Prospect-Winchester Ave. area. Furthermore, the Junta for Progressive Action at 649 Howard Ave. has agreed to print and distribute order blanks in Spanish for all New Haven's Spanish speaking population.

As our (and your) consumer *action* co-op expands, we expect to establish area units all over the city, including Wooster Square, Fair Haven, and Newhallville. Furthermore, distribution will soon take place from churches or social service centers located centrally in each area. If you would like to begin a co-op unit in your area, contact us and hook into our collective efforts.

We guarantee satisfaction with your food or you receive your money back. If you have food stamps, we will be able to accept them in a few weeks.

Our food is bought at Long Wharf at wholesale prices; the same prices you will pay when you buy it. We are able to accomplish this by sharing the work involved in buying and distributing the food; each person contributes a little time each month to aid in achieving the tasks involved in running a co-op which is totally non-profit: distributing lists, tallying orders, buying food, and distributing the food. Come join our collective efforts!! CONTACT:

Hill-Howard Ave. area - Jeff Kilbreth - 624-2321

Downtown-Dwight Area - Peg Shalen - 562- 8497.

Prospect-Mansfield- Winchester area - Larry Lifschultz - 624-6744 or Al - 865-1397.

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and his
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Workers & Students Press Companies On Job Safety

by Lance Compa

Law Student, Member, Occupational Health Project

Union members and professional school students are working together to make local companies more attentive to health conditions in the factories. The union members are from several different unions in the New Haven area and the students are from the Yale schools of Medicine, Law and Public Health.

At Sargent & Co., workers in the United Electrical Workers local have set up a safety committee to improve the working conditions in their shop, and to force company compliance with federal law.

At Olin, for the first time in sixteen years, a Joint Safety Committee has been established with both workers from International Association of Machinists **(IAM)** Lodge 609 and management represented. The committee investigates all complaints of safety hazards in the plant.

Occupational Health Project

The students make up the Occupational Health Project, a voluntary group seeking to provide advice to workers who want to see the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act enforced in their plants. The law was passed by Congress in 1970, and there is still a great deal of uncertainty among workers and employers about the protection it provides.

Project members have met with Greater New Haven Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, with members of different locals of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), and with IAM. They have also assisted Charles Zdravesky of UAW Local 376 in his fight against Reliable Steel Drum Company's pollution in Milford.

Anti-Worker Offensive

This kind of initiative and action on the part of workers is essential if the protections of the law are to be obtained. The Occupational Health Division of the Department of Labor is still understaffed and underfinanced.

There is not much hope that it will grow under the Nixon government's anti-worker offensive. The burden is on the employees to press their companies to pro-provide a healthful workplace and to press the Labor Department to enforce their rights.

Project coordinator Mike Charney, a 4th-year medical student, pointed out one difficulty they are facing: "Many of these occupational diseases happen over such a long period of time that people are unaware of its causes. Everyone knows about occupational diseases. Once we get the information about dangers of the materials they work with to unions, they can take the ball on their own to get improvements. We have a problem, though, in reaching non-union workers. Many of these are working under the worst health conditions."

Charney asked that anyone with information about hazardous conditions in non-union workplaces--or anyone who just wants to know whether such hazards might exist--should contact the Occupational Health Project c/o New Haven Health Dept., Health Education Division (562-0151 ext. 320), or call Mike Charney at 777-5388.

PERISCOPE

On The Environment

Power Pollution

The Connecticut Citizens Action Group is acting as a watchdog on power plant siting, and will be watching the construction of U.I.'s new plant on Morris Cove. Contact Mike Kane at 787-7186 or Angie Martin at 527-9178 (Hartford Office).

Occupational Health and Safety

The Medical Committee on Human Rights, in cooperation with other groups, is doing a project trying to insure enforcement of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Contact Lance Compa at 776-6429 or Mike Charney at 777-5388.

Transportation

The New Haven Earth Action Group is trying to make life liveable for cyclists and others by promoting bicycle paths in Connecticut. Contact Mark Bagdon at 562-7800.

Peter Sly is writing a highway pamphlet for a national conservation foundation and needs help. Phone 432-2531.

Anti- Route 34 Coalition

Still alive and kicking after three years, the coalition is currently trying to develop a strategy for placing housing along the Route 34 site. Contact Laura Joseph, 865-0488 or Tony Dominski, 624-4254.

Recycling - Solid Waste Disposal

The New Haven Earth Action Group is sponsoring a recycling project in the Yale Community. Contact Carol Simpson - 562-1333.

Marshes - Estuaries

The West Haven Jaycees along with the Southern Environmental Council are working to research pollution and destruction of marshes along the west shore. Contact Cliff Templeton, 934-5950 or Dave Emerson, 248-1245.

Noise Pollution

The New Haven Earth Action Group is researching codes for soundproofing in apartments. Contact Linda Toren, 281-3980.

Parks

The Citizens Park Council has been active in reviewing policy in the public parks. It has been involved in cleaning projects and research into the uses of Edgewood and West River Parks. The Council will also be reviewing the new master plan for the parks. Contact Blanche Spinner, 387-5752.

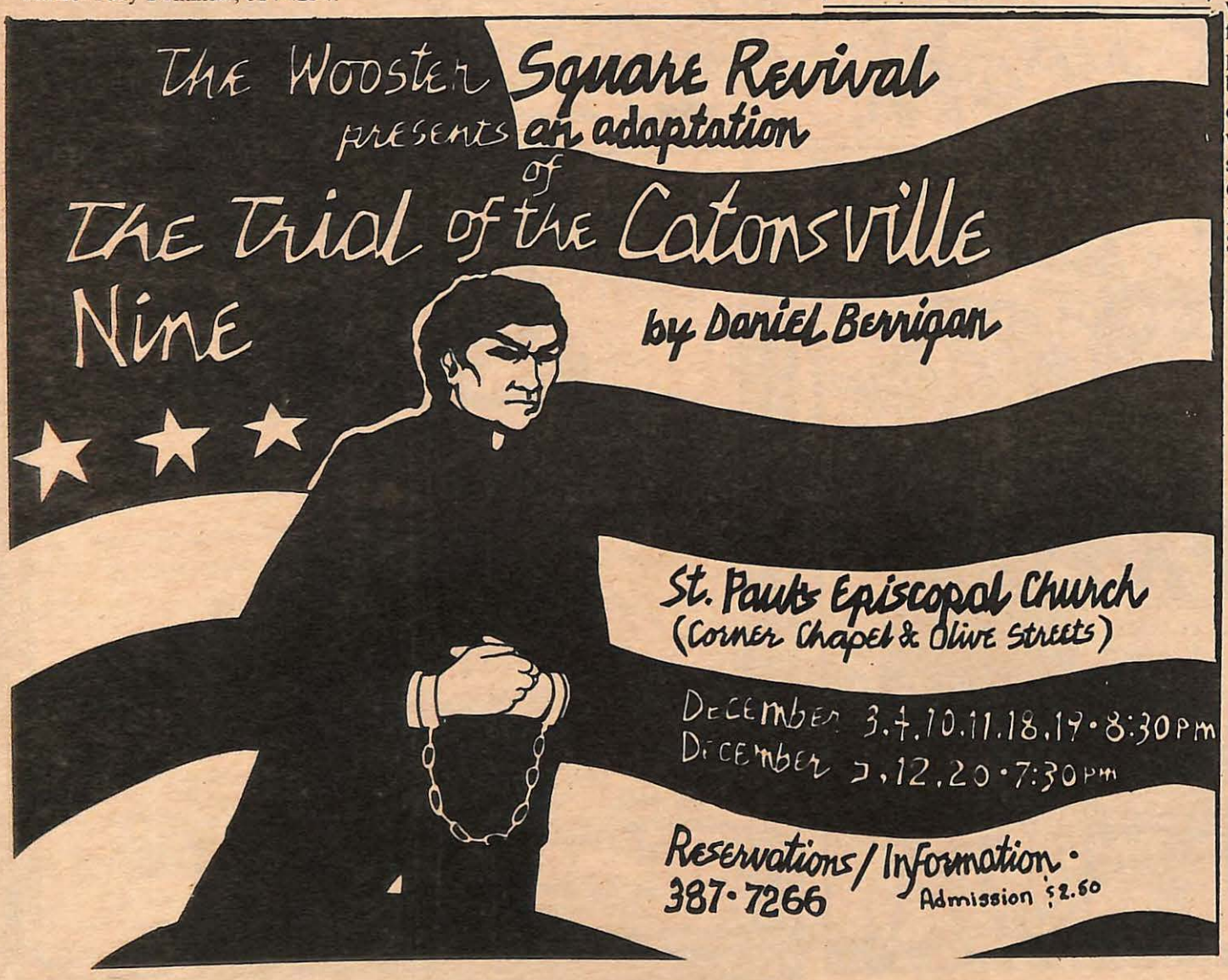
December 13

A Department of Environmental Protection meeting concerning the boundaries of West Shore wetlands will be held in the Milford town hall at 8 P.M. For rides contact Tony Dominski, 624-4254.

Deaths Ignored

Yes, I felt bad when I read how the astronauts died in the oxygen fire: but in Great Lakes Steel about four or five months earlier three workers were killed in an oxygen-making plant when the compressor blew up. I was there within a half hour or 45 minutes - the bodies could not be identified. The electrical equipment was hanging like icicles. The compressor chamber, made of iron about two and a half to three inches thick, was just melted down, like melted ice. You know what was in the papers about those three workers? On the ninth page of the Detroit News a piece about three inches long. And I am sure the astronauts' dependents will live a lot better and a lot more securely than those three workers' families will live. I do not begrudge what the astronauts' families get; but I think the politicians ought to be made to realize that if they can do it for the astronauts, they can do it for the people in the plants.

---Charles Younglove, director of District 29 – United Steelworkers of America, in "Steel: the Attitude Barrier" from Men at Work



Hill Teen Center Expands Services

by Frank Smith

Assistant Director, Hill Teen Center

The Hill Teen Center located at 610 Howard Avenue aims to broaden the scope of its services to young people beyond the recreational social activities normally associated with Teen Center operations. The Center will run a full schedule of both formal and informal recreational programs including: ping pong, baseball, basketball, judo, karate, cooking, sewing, pool, trips, and weekend dances. The Teen Center staff consists of Director, Charles Maddox; Assistant Director, Frank Smith; and Secretary, Sylvia Barren.

The Center is also related to the Hill Arts drama program on Portsea St.

Black Theater, an integral part of the Teen Center, will be directed by Kelly Graham. The Drama Department will be geared toward motivating teenagers to be able to identify drama with their every day living. Through the different plays, the teens will be exposed to travelling to different locations and broadening their knowledge to what theater actually is all about.

The objectives, however, on any project that Hill Arts undertakes will remain as follows:

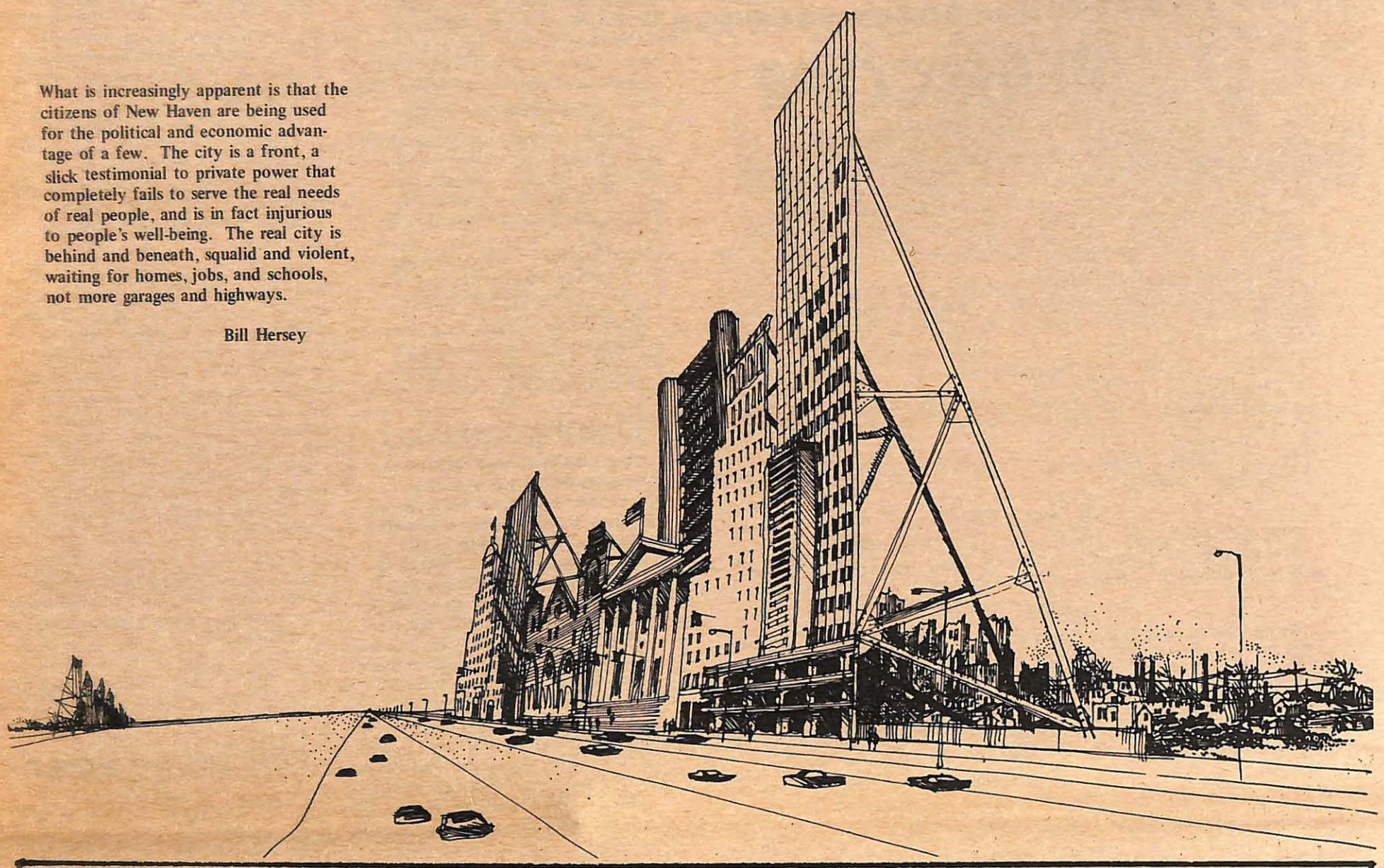
1. To provide training and practice in the communicating arts to interested and talented members of New Haven's black community.
2. To support those who as a result of their efforts with Hill Arts wish to seek either further training or beginning level employment in the communicating arts.

Look

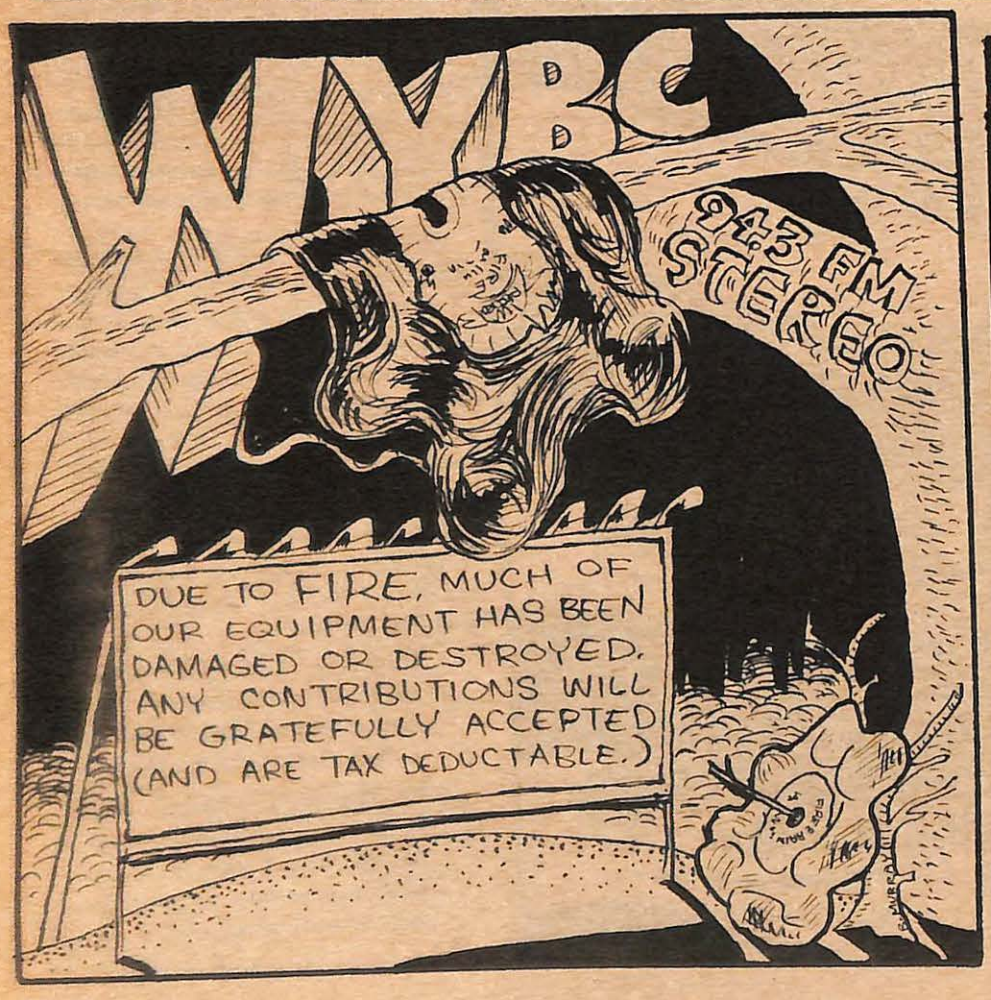
What is increasingly apparent is that the citizens of New Haven are being used for the political and economic advantage of a few. The city is a front, a slick testimonial to private power that completely fails to serve the real needs of real people, and is in fact injurious to people's well-being. The real city is behind and beneath, squalid and violent, waiting for homes, jobs, and schools, not more garages and highways.

Bill Hersey

Behind the Scene



Libbi's Thanksgiving
WELL, I GUESS I CAN GIVE THANKS THAT I DIDN'T GET DRAFTED THIS YEAR.
I'M THANKFUL I COULD GET UP THE BREAD FOR MY ABORTION IN NEW YORK.
I'M THANKFUL FOR MY FOOD STAMPS
I'M THANKFUL I ONLY WAITED THREE WEEKS IN JAIL BEFORE MY TRIAL.
I AM THAT THE WAGE FREEZE CAME WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE A JOB ANYWAYS.
HEY LIBBI, NEED ANY HELP WITH THE DINNER?
NOPE, THE HAMBURGERS ARE DONE!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N.H. Labor Hits Ceiling On Wages

Continued from page 1

must unite to end the war, and end profiteering. Profits must be controlled. I no longer buy the slogan, "What's good for GM is good for the American people."

BILL MORICO, Local 1199: "Phase II enforces further the Nixon plan, which is just a boondoggle for big business. 5.5% is a ridiculous standard, especially for Hospital workers, considering the cost of living. All of the working poor should be exempt; that is people earning less than $12,000 which is the Bureau of Labor Statistics standard for a family of four in the Hartford area.

We in the Hospital Workers currently have nine expiring contracts, and are bargaining as if there is no freeze at all. If our settlements come to more than 5.5% we'll take it to the government."

ALICE SMITH, Paraprofessionals Union, Local 1313, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees: "The Government should realize that people have to earn a living and to hold on to their jobs. We, paraprofessionals, just won a Union and have no written contract yet. So we're way down at the bottom of the totem pole.

With regard to prices I've noticed that prices have gone up considerably, on canned goods especially."

CLIFFORD HAGUE, Field Representative, United Steelworkers International Union: *"We're not happy about the wage price freeze. It's not equitable,* and very inequitable regarding fringe benefits.

I don't think they will be able to control prices, especially on foodstuffs. It's impossible to control."

Classified

Typing: special rates for students. Call Sally, 562-0058 or 865-0917.

Anyone interested in forming an informal study group based on the Gurdjieffian and related philosophical systems in the New Haven area, please call Henry (1) 734-9173.

Wanted: One child, age 2½ to 3, for cooperative group day care, weekday mornings. Call 787-5088 or 777-1152 anytime.

Detective Story For Youngsters

Funny Secrets About Growing Up

by Kathy Moldenhauer
Assistant Children's Book Club Editor

THE LONG SECRET. written and illustrated by Louise Fitzhugh. Dell Yearling Book, 75c. Ages 8-12.

"You wouldn't know a Fallopian tube if you fell over one."

"Religion is a tool, Jessie, just like a tractor or a shovel or a pitchfork."

"I wouldn't go to the corner with my mother!"

Unlikely statements to be appearing in a book for eight to 12 year old kids, huh? Yet Louise Fitzhugh treats the subjects of female biology, religion, and motherhood with candor and good humor while wrapping them together in an intriguing plot.

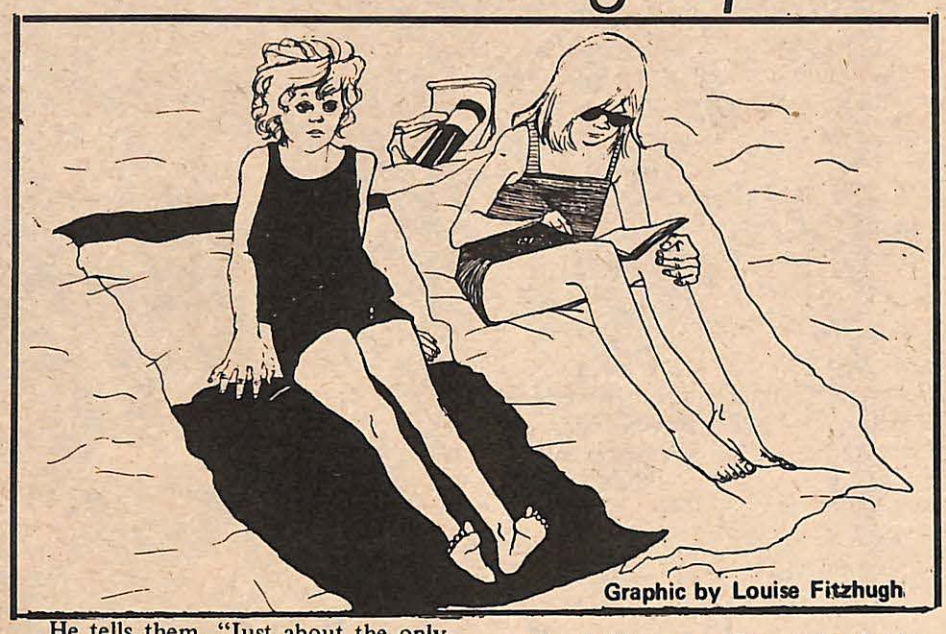
Mysterious messages are appearing all over town. Harry, the chauffeur, who's been running a limousine service on the side by using his employer's car, receives a note that says, "No man can serve two masters." Young Harriet Welsch (from Ms. Fitzhugh's earlier book **Harriet the Spy**) can't stand the suspense. She must know who's planting the messages. Insatiably, she begins her search for clues to the secret.

Beth Ellen, Harriet's friend, frequently tags along on the sleuthing missions. On one such mission, Harriet and Beth Ellen meet some new arrivals to their Long Island summer community--the Jenkinses.

They are a family of poor whites who who have struck it rich by originating and manufacturing a toe medicine Jessie Mae, who is their age, intends to leave the toe medicine business as soon as possible and become an evangelist.

The Preacher

It is through Jessie Mae that the girls meet The Preacher. He is a black former minister from the South. While the girls partake of lemonade, sitting with him on his porch, he imparts the wisdom of his experience to them.



Graphic by Louise Fitzhugh

He tells them, "Just about the only way the sharecroppers and migrant workers can get through this world is to think there's another one coming up." The meek will grow tired of waiting to inherit the earth, he says.

The Preacher's point of view on religion is just one expressed in the book. Harriet and Beth Ellen, like all maturing children, are beginning to wonder and try to put everything together in their own minds.

The Liberation of Beth Ellen

Harriet's search for the message-sender is the thread that runs through the book, but the story is really about the liberation of Beth Ellen. She has been raised by her kind invalid grandmother, Mrs. Hansen. Beth Ellen's mother, Zeeney, is an international jet-setter whose main function in life is to consume -- products and husbands.

Zeeney comes home with her most recent husband, Wallace, and starts dragging Beth Ellen with her to the club all the time. At first, Beth Ellen is cowed by the presence of her beautiful mother. As the woman's shallowness is revealed, Beth Ellen begins to free herself. Her liberation is traced through her changing attitude toward a career.

"I want to grow up and marry a rich man. I want to have a little boy and, maybe, a little girl," she tells Harriet. To which Harriet responds, "That's the most boring thing I ever heard of." By the end of the book Beth Ellen has decided she doesn't care about her mother, wouldn't walk to the corner with her, and that she is "going to college and get a Ph.D."

The best part of the book, I haven't mentioned yet. That is -- it's a laugh-out-loud-till-tears-run-down-your-cheeks sort of book. Fitzhugh has a knack for creating the funniest scenes. The Fallopian tube scene where one of their more mature friends explains the menstrual cycle to Harriet and Beth Ellen is one of those scenes.

Another riotously comic scene takes place at the club. Harriet knows that Beth Ellen, Zeeney, and Wallace will be meeting friends there for dinner. Having persuaded her mother to eat at the club that night, Harriet has a chance to check out the scene.

As Zeeney faces many of her old acquaintances they all scream each other's first names across the room at each other. You know, "Zeeney!"..."Bunny!"..."Darling!"..."Sweetie!"..."Zeeney!"..."Agatha!"..."Wallace!" And the screaming is accompanied by everyone running across the room with arms outstretched to deliver a hug to the waiting victim. And then...

"What's this?" said Agatha, looking down at Beth Ellen.

Harriet, who's been watching this whole scene from her place beside her mother, gets a wild smile on her face, charges across the room with her arms outstretched and yells, "Beth Ellen!"

The effectiveness of this scene is remarkable. With open-mouthed fascination, the reader watches the adults carrying on. When attention shifts to Beth Ellen, the reader sucks in his breath thinking, "What will she do?"

Harriet's charging onto the scene catches the reader off-guard. The impulsiveness of it is felt, plus, it provides relief from the tension that has been accumulating. The resultant effect is a big laugh.

Give it a read. It's fun.

ANGELA DAVIS BOOKSTORE
MONTHLY FORUM
George Morris' new book,
Rebellion in the Union: A Handbook for Rank and File Action
will be discussed by Art Shields.
sunday, december 3 - 5pm
no admission
425 college st. 2nd fl.
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Where To Buy Modern Times

Hill: Beirne's, Howard-Columbus; Wil-Mor's, Congress-Hallock; Len-Mac Cleaners, Howard-Sylvan; Martinez Grocery, Washington-West.

Fair Haven: Wil-Mor's, Grand-James; Marie's, Grand-Lloyd; Fair Haven Parents Ministry, Grand-James, Sal's Sandwich Shop, 188 Grand; Lenny's Market, St. Johns-Chestnut; Pequot Drug, Grand-East Pearl.

Downtown: Red's Newstand, Elm-State; News Depot, Orange-George; Band Box, Chapel near College; Whitlock's, Broadway, Morton's, Broadway; Angela Davis Book Store, Broadway.

Hamden: Cherry Hill Pharmacy, 1830 Dixwell; Soybel Pharmacy, Dixwell-Wooding.

West Haven: Silver's, Campbell-Main; Liggett's, Campbell-Center; Rivoli Luncheonette, Campbell-Center.

Newhallville: Joe & Jessie's No. 1, Shelton-Bassett; Davis-Waller, Goodrich-Newhall; Visel Drugs, Dixwell-Bassett; Bob's Market, Dixwell-Division.

State-Orange: Standard Food Market, 852 State; Orange-Grove Pharmacy; Whitney Pharmacy, near Edwards; Orange Market., 500 Orange.

Dixwell: Davis-Waller, Dixwell Plaza; Lake Variety, Dixwell-Lake Place; Windsor Drugs, Winchester-Webster; FH Discount, 138 Goffe St.

Westville: Beaver Hill Pharmacy, Fitch-Blake; Westville Pharmacy, Fountain-Central; Coyne Stationery, Amity Center; Lurie's Pharmacy, Whalley-Dayton.

Dwight: Nu-Way Market, Howe-Chapel; Howe Food Shop, cor. Edgewood; Group W, Dwight-Edgewood; Volpe's Pharmacy, Chapel-Beers; Gilbert Pharmacy, cor. Greenwood; Esquire Restaurant, Chapel-Orchard.

Mid-town: Book World, Chapel-York; Superbooks, Chapel-York; Downstairs Gallery, York near Chapel; Thomas' Market, Norton-George; Audio Showcase, Whalley-Winthrop; LaBella's Luncheonette, 433 Chapel; Our Food Store, Whalley-Winthrop; Gary's New York Deli, 1207 Chapel; Ray's Coffee Shop, York-Chapel; Omnibus, Park near Crown.

Search for Alternative Funds for Day Care: II

by Liz Farrell
Modern Times Staff

This article is the second of a series in day care issues. The first article dealt with legislative action to get funds for day care centers.

Story time with Neighborhood Nursery Director, Mrs. Dolores Notarino. (M-T photo by Alan Waggoner)

The Neighborhood Nursery, inc., serving Wooster Square, is one of nine state-funded day care centers in New Haven. Nearly three years ago they first applied for state funds.

Says Karin Cook, who keeps the books, "We concluded that the state owed us day care--free day care--but the state doesn't believe that yet." Getting the funds approved was a small problem in contrast to actually **getting** the funds. "The state creates the problem by their procedure of approving money and only later delivering it. Approval is meaningless unless you've got the money there," she says.

Six Month Wait for Funds

The Neighborhood Nursery has to wait six months for its money after they're notified it's been approved. All state-funded day cares are in the same boat. While they wait, they stay in operation. This means they must operate on loans. And this means borrowing money. And if they borrow from a bank, they pay interest. So when the money designated for day care finally gets there, some of it goes to the bank instead. CPI sometimes makes loans to tide day cares over by juggling funds earmarked for other programs. "But this is robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Legislation could improve thanks to efforts like those of a state-wide day care committee (see last issue), but there's still the bureaucracy. "Day care people have very little direct control over their funds," she says.

Welfare Dept. Fails to Pay Share

Such was the case with an arrangement between day care centers and the Welfare Department. Last spring Welfare made plans to pay for a number of spaces for children in day care centers. Contracts were drawn up and sent to the day cares involved. The Neighborhood Nursery signed its contracts and sent them back for the Commissioner's signature. But he never signed. The plan never did go into effect; by June 30 their budget, which counted on this money, was $1500 short.

At present children from families receiving welfare are being cared for by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) - funded day care centers without payment from Connecticut's Welfare Department. The Neighborhood Nursery has been denied $6800 that it had been previously promised. As yet no system has been agreed upon to return this cash to the budget.

The Neighborhood Nursery, as a school with two-thirds or more children from low-income families, qualifies for the federal lunch program. But it takes months to be reimbursed for what they spend on lunches. "That doesn't mean you stop buying food. You stop paying, or start using borrowed money or worse yet, money designated for other things," "The only way to catch up would be to close for a year," says Mrs. Cook.

Rigid requirements are also a problem. Because these must be followed, state-funded centers cannot afford to be as experimental/innovative in their programs.

Daycare Needs Support

Precious time and energy is spent organizing parents and staff to fight for the money when necessary. She explains: "By that, I'm referring to demonstrations at City Hall, press releases, writing letters, meeting with state legislators. We're getting paid to run a day care center. And it's unreasonable to expect parents to fight for this.

The reason most parents have their kids in day care is that they work. Sometimes parents must take a day off from work without pay to help get funds. Strouse Adler, though, did pay women for their time off. I wish there were people not involved in day care who would represent the point of view of day care people."

"When you look at it now, many new day care centers are being organized by people in addition to those organized by agencies. This," she concludes, "is a sign of the need for not only more, but also various kinds of day care programs."

SCCC Starts Child Care Center

by a student at SCCC

There is something in the works at South Central Community College (SCCC) that has been brewing for over a year. In spite of all the odds against it, SCCC has raised $5000 for a child care center - half of the funds come from the student government and the other half from the school budget.

The child care center, opening in January, will be located at 111 Whitney Ave., New Haven in the basement of the college's administration building. The free center will provide students with children a greater chance to participate in the college.

Child care is an important part of today's working society. Our center will be set up to provide all types of educational stimuli for children. Each room in the basement will be set up to perform multiple functions, including facilities for a dramatic play area, arts and crafts, running, jumping and playing with large toys, a library for reading stories and a snack section.

Pre-School Laboratory

Students in the Early Childhood Education Department will now have an opportunity to do some of their field work at the center. Possibly, a work study program will open up giving more opportunity to interested students.

There are several other outcomes in regard to the community that will come with the center. SCCC will be able to attract other people in the community to our school.

We need help! We need equipment and money. If you have anything we can use, give us a call at SCCC and ask for someone in the Early Childhood Education Dept. or write the newspaper care of this writer and we'll make arrangements. Telephone number for SCCC is 772-3472. Ext 57

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